



Holy Week Reflections

Monday of Holy Week

John 12:1-8

After being in the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem, Bethany still feels smaller and quieter. Jesus was sitting comfortably with his friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Mary left the room and returned with some expensive perfume which she extravagantly poured over Jesus feet.

Extravagant, my dearest?
How can what I do be termed extravagant?

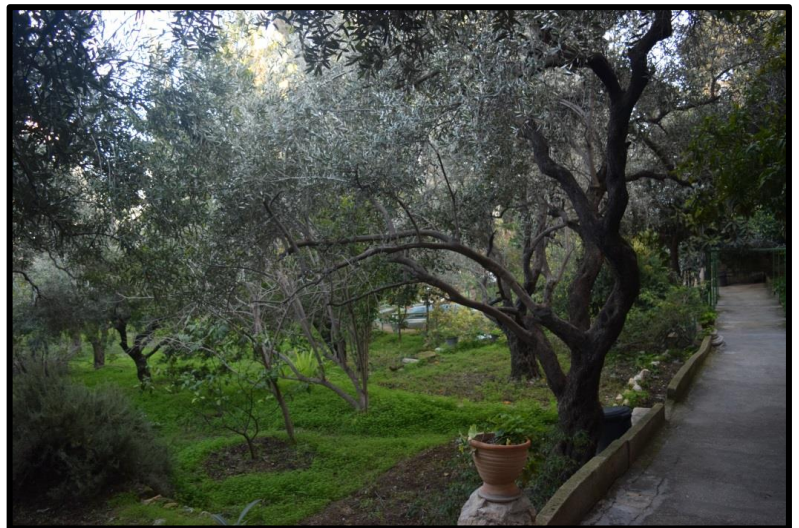
All I do is turn up for work each day and try to heal the sick.

All I do is stack the shop shelves each day and try and keep my sense of humour.

As for me I get out the tractor and sow the seed, hoping this dry weather will last so that we can put food on the table.

We have seen you heal the sick, raise the dead and feed the hungry.

We have seen you beyond yourself with tiredness and still able to smile at a child.



Jesus looked at their faces and said, 'Bless them, Father; they have no idea what good they are doing.'

About these reflections

In January 2019, I was blessed to go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land and to see some of the places where the historical events of Holy Week probably happened. Until I visited, it had never struck me how hard that last week in the city must have been for those essentially rural people. No wonder they walked down the hill from the city and up over the Mount of Olives to the village of Bethany each evening, to be among familiar friends and in a quieter place. No wonder Jesus sought solace and His Father in a garden. Life among stone and brick is hard when trees and soil and water and space are familiar.

Elizabeth Clark (National Rural officer for the Methodist and United Reformed Churches) and I have taken some of the photographs I took on that pilgrimage and reflected on episodes from that last week. These photographs and reflections are what we offer to you now. We are all in unfamiliar territory this week. Our world is changing around us so very quickly. None of us will be quite the same after this experience. We pray that these reflections might help you navigate this challenging Holy Week.

God bless you this Easter.

Revd Claire Maxim, CEO, Arthur Rank Centre

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